



Iowa State Office of Rural Health (SORH)

The SORH continues to work with state and national partners to improve access to quality health care, support continuity with health care transformation, integrated care, and community care coordination and; promote rural and public health care organizations in Iowa.

Telehealth - On July 10th at the IA Capitol there was a unique opportunity that brought together state legislators, legislative staff, executive and local government officials, and key health care stakeholders from across the state to explore and discuss issues related to telehealth in Iowa. Speakers shared examples of successful telehealth models from other states and around the world. Participants also heard from state stakeholders who shared their experiences with telehealth. The meeting ended in a facilitated brainstorm solutions and decisions on what next steps can build on improved telehealth for Iowa. (** CMS recently proposed Annual wellness visits and psychotherapy are among four services the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services proposes that Medicare beneficiaries can receive via telehealth, according to a proposed update to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) for the 2015 calendar year).

Upcoming Conferences/Meetings/Celebrations –

1. The IA SORH is hosting the Office of Rural Health Policy Region C (10 state) annual meeting on August 12-13 in Des Moines. The agenda speakers will discuss: ACA policy, current EMS practice, Patient Centered Medical Home, population health, telehealth/telepsychiatry and critical access hospital financial operations assessment. The evening of the 12th attendees will go to the IA State Fair!
2. The SORH is on the planning team for the IA Rural Health Association Fall Conference (IRHA). The IA Rural Health Association is partnering with the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety & Health Conference for the 2014 [**Transforming Safety and Health in the Heartland Conference**](#). The conference will be held on November 19 - 20, 2014 at the FFA Enrichment Center on the DMACC Campus in Ankeny.
3. November 20th is National Rural Health Day. Nat'l RHD has become a nation-wide celebration. Last year in addition to activities and programs in several states (including Iowa!); there was a notice read on the floor in Congress and the President signed a proclamation. Planning for events in Iowa has begun. On the 20th there will be a Nat'l RHD activity during the lunch program at the ***Transforming Safety and Health in the Heartland Conference***. Watch and listen for more.

Grant information: HRSA awarded the 2014-15 SORH grant application. The intent and goals of the SORH grant is:

1. Support and build statewide partnerships to enhance health care transformation
2. Disseminate information news articles, research reports and national briefs
3. Fund projects and education that build on Rural Health Clinic capacities, improve provider clinical skills, increase community care coordination and primary care integration services
4. Work in behalf of the state to decrease health care costs by decreasing duplication, increasing collaboration, and prioritizing national/federal initiatives to best ensure Iowa rural health
5. Advocate for rural health through education and information sharing, and serve as liaison to policy makers

Check out the [**IA SORH website**](#)